

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 VO-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 EB-07 COME-00

/042 W

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R 180509Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 226

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 2027

E.O. 11652: GDS

TJDS: PFOR, NATO, PO, BU

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS

REF: USNATO 4939

1. SOFIA HAS NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THAT GOB HAS PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH PORTUGAL TO ABOLISH VISA REQUIREMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
2. BULGARIA ADVERTISES "VISA FREE REGIME" FOR TOURISTS OF ANY NATIONALITY, AND INDEED HOLDERS OF TOURIST PASSPORTS CAN NVPRESENT THEMSELVES AT BULGARIAN ENTRY POINTS WITHOUT PRE-OBTAINED VISAS. IN FACT, HOWEVER, BULGARIA HAS VERY HIGHLY DEVELOPED CONTROL PROCEDURES CHARACTERIZED BY "STATISTICAL CARD"

WHICH MUST BE FILLED OUT ON ENTRY, VALIDATED BY IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES, AND PRESENTED ON EXIT. IN ADDITION, EACH FOREIGNER MUST REGISTER HIS WHEREABOUTS WITH THE POLICE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ARRIVAL AND KEEP THEM ADVISED OF NAY CHANGES. THESE AND OTHERPROCEDURES PROVIDE FAR MORE CONTROL OF FOREIGNERS THAN VISA PROCEDURES IN MOST OTHER COUNTRIES.

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3. IN SHORT, WHILE WE ARE UNAWARE OF PORTUGUESE PRO-

CEDURES FOR THE CONTROL OF FOREIGNERS, WE SUSPECT THAT
A NO-VISA AGREEMENT WOULD PROVIDE BULGARIANS WITH EN-
HANCED FREEDOM OF ACTIVITY IN PORTUGAL WITHOUT MATERIALLY
AFFECTING BULGARIAN ABILITY TO MONITOR PORTUGUESE ACTIVITIES
IN BULGARIA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOURISM, POLICIES, TRAVEL CONTROLS, VISA REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SOFIA02027
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750323-0580
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750939/aaaabikw.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BULGARIAN-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS
TAGS: PINS, CVIS, BU
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006